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CONGRESSMAN LARSON PRAISES PROTECTION OF NEW ENGLAND TRAIL SYSTEM

WASHINGTON , DC -- In December of 2002, the President signed the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act into law, which directed the National Park Service to study the trail to determine if it should be included in the National Trail System. In April of 2006, the study recommended its inclusion. Today, the House voted on and approved legislation that urges the implementation of the study's recommendations, while protecting land owners.

Congressman John B. Larson CT -01, Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, said:

"I am thrilled that the House of Representatives voted today to protect one of our country's natural treasures - the Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail System.

The success of this legislation is due to the hard work of the entire delegations from Connecticut and Massachusetts , and Congressmen Joe Courtney and Chris Murphy in particular. I commend them, the local communities, and the states for their work on behalf of our environment.

Connecticut is proud to be home to part of what will now be the New England National Scenic Trail System, a beautiful nature trail that runs 190 miles from Massachusetts through Connecticut to the Long Island Sound.

The trail is a vital part of the natural beauty and recreational activity of the First Congressional District of Connecticut, as well as the other parts of the state and neighboring Massachusetts. But, it passes through one of the most densely populated parts of the country. 2 million people live within 10 miles of the trail.

The living things that call the ridge home and add to its beauty have not been protected from residential development pressures. While seventeen towns in Connecticut have signed a compact to work towards protecting the trail, we all felt that it merits federal protection.

Today, the trail has earned this protection."